

Application No. 10/716,586  
Office Action of February 14, 2007

182531-0004

**Amendments to the Claims:** The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims pending in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A protective cover for use with a locking device, said protective cover comprising:

a channel shaped protective shroud sized to cover at least part of the locking device, said protective shroud having openings at two opposite ends of the shroud;

means to affix the protective shroud to an access door in place over the locking device; and

a single hasp element having a notch which extends through the access door and into which the locking device engages under the protective cover, such that upon locking the locking device to the single hasp element, the locking device can not be removed from the single hasp element unless the locking device is unlocked.

2. (Currently Amended) A protective cover for use with a locking device, said protective cover comprising:

a channel shaped protective shroud sized to cover at least part of the locking device, said protective shroud having openings at two opposite ends of the shroud;

a plurality of anchors attached to the protective shroud;

means to affix the protective shroud to an access door in place over the locking device; and

a single hasp element having a notch which extends through the access door into which the locking device engages under the protective cover, such that upon locking the locking device to the single hasp element, the locking device can not be removed from the single hasp element unless the locking device is unlocked.

3. (Previously Presented) The locking device protective cover, according to claim 1, wherein the protective shroud is made from stainless steel.

4. (Previously Presented) The locking device protective cover, according to claim 1, wherein the protective shroud is made from approximately quarter inch thick stainless steel.

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5. (Currently Amended) The locking device protective cover, according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of anchors are each threaded bolts welded to the protective cover, and the affixing means to the access door are a plurality of nuts respectively threaded to engage the threaded bolts to mount the protective cover in place.

6. (Currently Amended) The locking device protective cover, according to claim 2, wherein the affixing means to the access door is an epoxy adhesive used to affix the plurality of anchors and protective cover in place.

7. (Previously Presented) The locking device protective cover, according to claim 1, wherein the locking device is a padlock having a pivoting shackle.

8. (Previously Presented) The locking device protective cover, according to claim 7, wherein the protective shroud covers at least the padlock pivoting shackle.

9. (Previously Presented) A protective cover system to shield locking devices, said locking devices used to secure access doors and access areas, said protective cover system comprising:

a channel shaped protective shroud attached to an access door, said access door preventing entry to an access area, said protective shroud having openings at two opposite ends of the shroud;

an aperture formed in the access door under the protective shroud;

a hasp element attached to the interior of the access area, said hasp element having a notch cut therein, and said hasp element extending through the access door aperture; and

a locking device lockable to the hasp element, wherein the locking device fits within the hasp element notch, such that upon closing the access door and locking the locking device to the hasp element under the protective shroud, the locking device is at least partially covered by the protective shroud, the locking device can not be removed from the hasp element, and the access door can not be opened unless the locking device is unlocked.

10. (Previously Presented) The protective cover system, according to claim 9, wherein the protective shroud is made from 1/4 inch stainless steel.

11. (Previously Presented) The protective cover system, according to claim 9, wherein the hasp element is made from 1/4 inch stainless steel.

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12. (Previously Presented) The protective cover system, according to claim 9, wherein the locking device is a padlock having a pivoting shackle.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) The protective cover system, according to claim 12, wherein the protective shroud covers at least the padlock shackle.

15. (Previously Presented) The protective cover system, according to claim 12, wherein the protective shroud covers the entire padlock.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of securing an access door and access area and shielding a locking device, said locking device being used to secure said access door and access area, said method comprising the steps of:

affixing a channel shaped protective shroud attached to the access door, said protective shroud having openings at two opposite ends of the shroud;

forming an aperture in the access door in a location under the protective shroud;

affixing a hasp element, said hasp element having a notch cut therein, within the access area behind the access door, whereby said hasp element extends through the access door aperture; and

after closing the access door, lockably engaging a locking device to the hasp element under the protective shroud, whereby the locking device is at least partially covered by the protective shroud, and the locking device can not be removed from the hasp element, and the access door can not be opened unless the locking device is unlocked.